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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 7, 2006, at 2 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2006

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the PRESIDENT pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, the center of our joy, we find our delight in You. Thank You for giving us the desire to commit our lives to You and to trust You to fulfill Your purposes for creating us. Cleanse our hearts and thoughts so that we will be worthy to live in Your presence.

Bless our lawmakers. Give them confidence in You that will free them from fear of an uncertain future. May they live lives that boldly proclaim that You are at work in our world. Remind them of their accountability to You and that to whom much is given, much is expected.

Help us all to love others with the kind of love we have received from You. Lead us from blindness to sight and from illusion to reality. Make us grateful and faithful stewards of Your blessings, as we rejoice to be Your sons and daughters.

Today, we again remember Your daughter, Coretta Scott King.

We pray in Your loving Name.
Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this afternoon we have scheduled a period of morning business. I mentioned at the close of business last week that it had been my intention to begin consideration today of the bipartisan asbestos legislation. Unfortunately, we are unable to start consideration of the bill itself today because of an objection that has come forth from the other side of the aisle. Therefore, it will be necessary to file a cloture motion on the motion to proceed to the asbestos bill. Unfortunately, this will delay starting the bill, but I hope cloture will be invoked and we will be able to discuss the substance of that bill.

FAIRNESS IN ASBESTOS INJURY RESOLUTION ACT OF 2005—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 131, S. 852, the Fairness in Asbestos Injury Resolution Act.

Further, I ask unanimous consent that the motion be set aside until 3 p.m. today. Before the Chair rules, we expect Chairman SPECTER to begin the debate at 3, and we welcome additional speakers to come down this afternoon on the topic of asbestos reform.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I will have more to say on the significance of this bill in a few minutes. We will be filing the necessary cloture motion prior to adjourning today. Under the order from last week, that vote will occur at 6 p.m. tomorrow night. I will be leading a bipartisan Senate delegation attending the funeral of Coretta Scott King tomorrow, and we delayed that vote to accommodate the travel of those Senators. So that vote will be at 6 o'clock tomorrow night.

For the remainder of the week, we expect to be on the asbestos bill and to make progress on consideration of that important piece of legislation by considering relevant amendments. Senators can expect votes each day as we debate and vote on those amendments.

We also may have to revisit the Tax Increase Prevention Act, the Tax Relief Act, this week once again when we receive the House message on the bill. We passed that bill last week by a vote of 66 to 31. We discussed a whole range of amendments and voted on the amendments at the end of last week. It is time to get that bill to conference. I hope that we can work together to come to an agreement and arrangement to get that bill to conference without much of a delay. I will be talking to the Democratic leader as we determine how to expedite that process.

I encourage Members to come to the floor this afternoon to discuss the asbestos litigation that we will begin formally on Tuesday, if allowed by the motion to proceed. For this piece of legislation, it is now or never. I said months ago we would be considering

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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